

united around the mouth by a nervous ring, form the larger portion of the nervous system, and inasmuch as they become more slender towards both ends of the ambulacrum and far surpass the nervous ring of the oral aperture in diameter, these ambulacral nervous trunks might be regarded as ambulacral cerebra, whose unity of action is provided for by the nervous ring. It is this ring which is cut through in the *Synaptae*, when we divide the head longitudinally upon one side, and so deprive them of the power of breaking themselves up.

[To be continued.]

II.—On a new species of Tanager in the British Museum.

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. G. R. Gray I have had an opportunity of examining an apparently new species of Tanager lately acquired by the British Museum. It is nearly allied to the *Saltator rubicus* of Vieillot, which is the type of the genus *Phœnicothraupis*, Cabanis. But I agree with Dr. Cabanis that the proper place of this bird is nearer *Pyrranga* and *Tachyphonus* than *Saltator*, with which it is often classed, and I think we may with propriety adopt the new generic name Dr. Cabanis has coined for it, and station it intermediately to the two former genera. My new bird will be the third of the genus, if we admit the claims of the Mexican variety named *rubicoides* by De la Fresnaye to be a true species. A specimen of this latter bird from Guatimala in my collection differs little in size from the southern race, although varying slightly in the conformation of the bill and rosy tint of the under plumage, as that accurate naturalist has remarked.

I possess a second local variety of this species from the island of Trinidad. It is smaller, and has the throat, belly and crissum of a rosy tint like the *rubicoides*; but I should be unwilling to separate it specifically without seeing more specimens.

The three species of the genus *Phœnicothraupis* will therefore stand as follows:—

Sp. I. PHÆNICOTHTRAUPIS RUBICA (V.).

Saltator rubicus, Vieill. Nov. Diet. xiv. 107.

Tanagra flammiceps, Temm. Pl. Col. 177.

——— *porphyrio*, Licht. Verz. d. Doubl. p. 31.

Pyrranga rubica, D'Orb. Voy. p. 265.

Phœnicothraupis rubica, Cab. M. H. p. 24.

Hab. in Brazilia (Max.), Bolivia (D'Orb.), Paraguay (Azara).

Sp. 2. PHÆNICOTHRAUPIS RUBICOIDES (Lafr.).

Saltator rubicoides, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 41.

Phænicothraupis rubicoides, Cab. M. H. p. 24.

Hab. in Mexico (Lafr.), Guatemala.

Sp. 3. PHÆNICOTHRAUPIS GUTTURALIS, Sclater.

P. niger: vertice cristato cum gutture medio coccineis: rostro pedibusque nigris.

Long. tota 7·25; alæ 3·8; caudæ 3·2 (poll. angl.).

Hab. in Nova Grenada (?).

The plumage is of a nearly uniform brown-black; bill and feet deep black; an elongated vertical crest and the middle of the throat crimson: the nape of the neck and upper breast are slightly tinged with the crimson colour. The extreme tips of some of the crest feathers are black; the chin and sides of the throat are black.

49 Pall Mall, Nov. 24, 1853.

III.—*Descriptions of new or little-known species of Reptiles collected in Ceylon.* By E. F. KELAART, M.D., F.L.S. &c.

Order SAURIA.

Tribe *Geissosaura*.

Fam. ACONTIADÆ.

Genus NESSIA, Gray.

Nessia Burtoni (?), Gray.

Dark rufous brown above, and spotted longitudinally with darker brown spots; dark gray beneath, clouded and indistinctly spotted. Tail cylindrical, rounded at the end, and coloured and spotted like the body. Limbs four, very small, each with three subequal toes, clawed.

Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Hab. Allagalla, 3000 ft., and Kaduganava, 2500 ft.

If our identification is correct, it would appear probable that the only specimen in Europe, found in the Army Medical Officers' Museum at Fort Pitt, was sent from Ceylon. The specimen was named after Staff Surgeon Burton, who was the Curator of the Museum when Dr. Gray visited that establishment.